

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34. (cancelled).

35. (new) A bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of an eye in an individual, the implant comprising a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and a bioerodible copolymer without an added release modifier, the implant structured to be placed in the vitreous of the eye and deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

36. (new) The implant according to claim 35 which includes particles of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within the bioerodible copolymer.

37. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cortisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone and mixtures thereof.

38. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone.

39. (new) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.1 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

40. (new) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.
41. (new) The implant according to claim 35, which is structured to maintain said *in vivo* concentration for at least about four weeks.
42. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50 to about 80 weight percent of the implant.
43. (new) The implant according to claim 42, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 70% by weight of the implant.
44. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is a polyester.
45. (new) The implant according to claim 44, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer.
46. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is selected from the group consisting of uveitis, macular edema, acute macular degeneration, retinal detachment, ocular tumors, fungal infections, viral infections, multifocal choroiditis, diabetic uveitis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), sympathetic ophthalmia, Vogt Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) syndrome, histoplasmosis, and uveal diffusion.
47. (new) The method according to claim 46, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is uveitis.

48. (new) The method according to claim 46, wherein the inflammation mediated condition of the eye to be treated is proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR).
49. (new) The implant according to claim 46, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular edema.
50. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is flucinolone acetonide.
51. (new) The implant according to claim 35, wherein the individual whose eye is to be treated is a human.
52. (new) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising a solid body structured for placement into the vitreous of the eye, said body comprising particles of a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within a bioerodible polymer without an added release modifier, whereby said agent is released from the body by erosion of the polymer, and whereby said agent is delivered to the vitreous at a rate and for a time sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.05 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 48 hours, and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.03 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.
53. (new) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and a bioerodible copolymer without an added release modifier, wherein the implant is structured for placement in the vitreous of the eye and delivers the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an *in vivo*

concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

54. (new) The implant of claim 53, which includes particles of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within the bioerodible copolymer.

55. (new) The implant according to claim 53 wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of cortisone, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone and mixtures thereof.

56. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone.

57. (new) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.4 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

58. (new) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to deliver the agent to the vitreous in an amount sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.1 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

59. (new) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to maintain said concentration for at least about four weeks.

60. (new) The implant according to claim 53, which is structured to maintain said concentration for at least about six weeks.

61. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50 to about 80 weight percent of the implant.
62. (new) The implant according to claim 61, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 70% by weight of the implant.
63. (new) The implant according to claim 61, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent comprises about 50% by weight of the implant.
64. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is a polyester.
65. (new) The implant of claim 53, wherein the bioerodible copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer.
66. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the inflammatory mediated condition of the eye to be treated is selected from the group consisting of uveitis, macular edema, acute macular degeneration, retinal detachment, ocular tumors, fungal infections, viral infections, multifocal choroiditis, diabetic uveitis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), sympathetic ophthalmia, Vogt Koyanagi-Harada (VKH) syndrome, histoplasmosis, and uveal diffusion.
67. (new) The implant according to claim 66, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is uveitis.
68. (new) The implant according to claim 66 wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR).

69. (new) The implant according to claim 66, wherein the inflammation-mediated condition of the eye to be treated is macular edema.

70. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is flucinolone acetonide.

71. (new) The implant according to claim 53, wherein the individual whose eye is to be treated is a human.

72. (new) An implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye in an individual, comprising: a bioerodible solid body structured for placement in the vitreous of the eye, said body comprising particles of a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent entrapped within a bioerodible polymer, whereby said agent is released from the body by erosion of the polymer, and whereby the implant delivers said agent to the vitreous at a rate and for a time sufficient to reach an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.2 µg/ml dexamethasone within about 6 hours, and to maintain an *in vivo* concentration equivalent to at least about 0.01 µg/ml dexamethasone for at least about three weeks.

73. (new) A solid bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye, consisting essentially of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent particles entrapped within a bioerodible copolymer, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent makes up between about 50% by weight and about 80% by weight of the implant and the total mass of the implant is about 800-1100 µg, and wherein the implant releases at least about 10% of the drug load within 1 week when measured under infinite sink conditions *in vitro*.

74. (new) The implant of claim 73 wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is dexamethasone and the copolymer is polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) polymer.

75. (new) A solid bioerodible implant for treating an inflammation-mediated condition of the eye, the implant consisting essentially of: dexamethasone particles entrapped within a polylactic acid polyglycolic acid (PLGA) copolymer matrix, wherein the dexamethasone makes up between about 50 percent by weight and about 80 percent by weight of the implant and the total mass of the implant is about 800-1100 μg , and wherein the implant releases at least about 15% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions *in vitro*.

76. (new) The solid bioerodible implant according to claim 75, wherein the implant releases at least about 20% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions *in vitro*.

77. (new) The solid bioerodible implant according to claim 76, wherein the implant releases at least about 40% of the dexamethasone within 2 weeks when measured under infinite sink conditions *in vitro*.